

**COMPETITIVE ACQUISITION FOR CERTAIN DURABLE MEDICAL  
EQUIPMENT, PROSTHETICS, ORTHOTICS, and SUPPLIES  
SPECIAL OPEN DOOR FORUM**

May 23, 2006  
2:00 PM – 3:30 PM (EDT)

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will be hosting a Special Open Door Forum (ODF) on May 23, 2006 to discuss the CMS proposed rule to improve Medicare's payment for certain durable medical equipment, prosthetics, orthotics, and supplies (DMEPOS) through a new competitive acquisition program.

The CMS proposed rule: "Competitive Acquisition for Certain Durable Medical Equipment, Orthotics, and Supplies" was published in the Federal Register on May 1, 2006.

We have planned this Open Door Forum during the comment period for the proposed regulation to provide a brief overview of the provisions in the proposed rule. CMS will then moderate an open session where ODF participants on the phone will have an opportunity to interact with CMS in an informal dialog.

One of the primary goals of the ODF is general outreach. Because we are in the early stages of the rulemaking process and we will be considering the many forthcoming written public comments, we are not supplying any final policy information during this forum. The forum does not replace the public comment process discussed in the proposed rule. Any comment on this regulations needs to be provided as outlined in the Federal Register, by the close of the comment period.

We look forward to your participation.

**Open Door Participation Instructions:**

There are 2 ways to participate, by phone or "in-person".

**1. To participate by phone:**

Dial: **1-800-837-1935** & Reference Conference ID: **8996164**

(Persons participating by phone do not need to RSVP.)

**2. To participate in person:**

This ODF will be conducted as an adjunct to a meeting of the DMEPOS competitive bidding Program Advisory and Oversight Committee (PAOC). Those who wish to attend the ODF in person must register for the PAOC meeting. For information on how to register, please see the CMS website at

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/CompetitiveAcqforDMEPOS/PAOCMI/list.asp#TopOfPage>.

Note: TTY Communications Relay Services are available for the Hearing Impaired. For TTY services dial 7-1-1 or 1-800-855-2880 and for Internet Relay services click here <http://www.consumer.att.com/relay/which/index.html> . A Relay Communications Assistant will help.

ENCORE: 1-800-642-1687; Conf. ID# 8996164

"Encore" is a recording of this call that can be accessed by dialing 1-800-642-1687 and entering the Conference ID beginning 2 hours after the call has ended. The recording will expire after 4 business days.

For Forum Schedule updates, Listserv registration and Frequently Asked Questions please visit our website at [www.cms.hhs.gov/OpenDoorForums/](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/OpenDoorForums/) .